

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 have been amended. Claim 3 has been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21 are currently pending.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,385,662 ("Moon"). Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oran et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,757,371 ("Oran").

Claims 1 - 14

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Moon does not disclose each and every limitation recited in amended claims 1 and 8. Specifically, Moon does not disclose "redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area."

Moon discloses techniques for processing information and teaches a user interface display upon which a status bar is presented to the user. Following an event, a status message is displayed within the status bar. When a user chooses to ignore the message, it is removed from the status bar and is placed into a history file. Subsequently, a user must select to view this history file to ascertain details about the message. The message is never redisplayed within the status bar, and the user must reference the history file to view an event log having relevant information regarding past events.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites “upon meeting an unhide criteria, redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area.” Similarly independent claim 8 requires “upon meeting an unhide criteria, displaying and arranging each of the notification item icons in the notification area.” Moon does not teach redisplaying a status message or icon in the status bar after the message has been hidden. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, and 4-7, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 9-14, which depend from claim 8, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Claims 15-21

Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oran. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Oran does not disclose each and every limitation set forth in independent claim 15.

Oran teaches a graphical user interface having a taskbar that includes various elements including a start menu button, a clock, a taskbar notification area, and buttons associated with currently active tasks. The interface of Oran may provide a taskbar properties selection display from which a user can select various display options or taskbar properties. However, these taskbar properties do not relate to the various and changing icons and tasks shown in the taskbar. Rather, the properties control the behavior of the taskbar as a whole. For example, one of the taskbar properties is “Auto hide.” When enabled, this feature causes the

taskbar to hide from the display after a predetermined period of inactivity. This hiding behavior is associated with the taskbar as a whole and not with the individual elements within the bar. The taskbar properties selection display does not present icons, descriptions of notifications, or characteristics of notification items.

In contrast, independent claim 15 requires displaying “a hiding behavior characteristic to be associated with [a] notification item.” Oran does not teach displaying hiding behavior characteristics associated with a notification item. Oran simply provides for the configuration of the taskbar as a whole and not for the presentation of the various notification items. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 15 is in condition for allowance

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 16 - 21, which depend from claim 15, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 15.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,



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